

(In him that was of late an Heretike)

As firme as faith.

Page. 'Tis well, 'tis well, no more:

Be not as extreme in submission, as in offence,

But let our plot go forward: Let our wives

Yet once againe (to make vs publike sport)

Appoint a meeting with this old fat-fellow,

Where we may take him, and disgrace him for it.

Ford. There is no better way then that they spoke of.

Page. Howe to send him word they'll meete him in

the Parke at midnight? Fie, fie, he'll neuer come.

Ena. You say he has bin throwne in the Riuer: and

has bin greuously peaten, as an old o'man: me-thinks

there should be terrors in him, that he should not come:

Me-thinks his flesh is punish'd, hee shall haue no de-

sires.

Page. So thinke I too.

M. Ford. Deuise but how you'll vse him whe he comes,

And let vs two deuise to bring him thether.

Mist. Page. There is an old tale goes, that *Herne* the

Hunter (sometime a keeper heere in Windsor Forrest)

Doth all the winter time, at still midnight

Walke round about an Oake, with great rag'd-hornes,

And there he blasts the tree, and takes the cattle,

And make milch-kine yeeld blood, and shakes a chaine

In a most hideous and dreadfull manner.

You haue heard of such a Spirit, and well you know

The superstitious idle-headed-Eld

Recei'd, and did deliuer to our age

This tale of *Herne* the Hunter, for a truth.

Page. Why yet there want not many that do feare

In deepe of night to walke by this *Hernes* Oake:

But what of this?

Mist. Ford. Marry this is our deuise,

That *Falstaffe* at that Oake shall meete with vs.

Page. Well, let it not be doubted but he'll come,

And in this shape, when you haue brought him thether,

What shall be done with him? What is your plot?

Mist. Pa. That likewise haue we thought vpon: & thus:

*Nan Page* (my daughter) and my little sonne,

And three or foure more of their growth, wee'll dresse

Like *Vrchins*, *Ouphes*, and *Fairies*, greene and white,

With rounds of waxen Tapers on their heads,

And rattles in their hands; vpon a sodaine,

As *Falstaffe*, she, and I, are newly met,

Let them from forth a saw-pit rush at once

With some difused song: Vpon their sight

We two, in great amazednesse, will flye:

Then let them all encircle him about,

And Fairy-like to pinch the vncleane Knight;

And aske him why that houre of Fairy Reuell,

In their so sacred pathes, he dares to tread

In shape prophane.

Ford. And till he tell the truth,

Let the supposed *Fairies* pinch him, sound,

And burne him with their Tapers.

Mist. Page. The truth being knowne,

We'll all present our selues; dis-horne the spirit,

And mocke him home to Windsor.

Ford. The children must

Be practis'd well to this, or they'll neuer doe't.

Ena. I will teach the children their behauiours: and I

will be like a Jacke-an-Apes also, to burne the Knight

with my Taber.

Ford. That will be excellent,

He go buy them vizards.

Mist. Page. My *Nan* shall be the Queene of all the

*Fairies*, finely attired in a robe of white.

Page. That filke will I go buy, and in that time

Shall *M. Slender* steale my *Nan* away,

And marry her at *Eaton*: go, send to *Falstaffe* straight.

Ford. Nay, Ile to him againe in name of *Broome*,

Hee'll tell me all his purpose: sure hee'll come.

Mist. Page. Feare not you that: Go get vs properties

And tricking for our *Fayries*.

Ena. Let vs about it,

It is admirable pleasures, and ferry honest knaueries.

Mist. Page. Go Mist. Ford,

Send quickly to Sir *Iohn*, to know his minde:

Ile to the Doctor, he hath my good will,

And none but he to marry with *Nan Page*:

That *Slender* (though well landed) is an Idoot:

And he, my husband best of all affects:

The Doctor is well monied, and his friends

Potent at Court: he, none but he shall haue her,

Though twenty thousand worthier come to craucher.

### Scena Quinta.

Enter *Hof*, *Simple*, *Falstaffe*, *Bardolfe*, *Ena*,  
*Cain*, *Quickly*.

*Hof*. What wouldst thou haue? (Boore) what? (thick  
skin) speake, breathe, discusse: breese, short, quicke,  
snip.

*Simp*. Marry Sir, I come to speake with Sir *Iohn Fal-*  
*staffe* from *M. Slender*.

*Hof*. There's his Chamber, his House, his Castle,

his standing-bed and truckle-bed: 'tis painted about

with the story of the Prodigall, fresh and new: go, knock

and call: hee'll speake like an *Anthrophaginian* vnto

thee: Knocke I say.

*Simp*. There's an olde woman, a fat woman gone vp

into his chamber: Ile be so bold as stay Sir till she come

downe: I come to speake with her indeed.

*Hof*. Ha? A fat woman? The Knight may be robb'd:

Ile call. Bully-Knight, Bully Sir *Iohn*: speake from thy

Lungs Military: Art thou there? It is thine Hof, thine

*Ephefian* calls.

*Fal*. How now, mine Hof?

*Hof*. Here's a Bohemian-Tartar carries the comming

downe of thy fat-woman: Let her descend (Bully) let

her descend: my Chambers are honourable: Fie, priua-

cy? Fie.

*Fal*. There was (mine Hof) an old-fat-woman even

now with me, but she's gone.

*Simp*. Pray you Sir, was't not the Wise-woman of

*Brainford*?

*Fal*. I marry was it (Mussel-shell) what would you

with her?

*Simp*. My Master (Sir) my master *Slender*, sent to her

seeing her go thorough the streets, to know (Sir) whe-

ther one *Nim* (Sir) that beguil'd him of a chaine, had the

chaine, or no.

*Fal*. I spake with the old woman about it.

*Simp*. And what sayes she, I pray Sir?

*Fal*. Marry she sayes, that the very same man that

beguil'd Master *Slender* of his Chaine, cozon'd him of it.

*Simp*. I would I could haue spoken with the Woman

her selfe, I had other things to haue spoken with her  
too, from him.

*Fal*. What are they? let vs know.

*Hof*. I: come: quicke.

*Fal*. I may not conceale them (Sir.)

*Hof*. Conceale them, or thou di'st.

*Simp*. Why Sir, they were nothing but about *Mistris*

*Anne Page*, to know if it were my Masters fortune to

haue her, or no.

*Fal*. 'Tis, 'tis his fortune.

*Simp*. What Sir?

*Fal*. To haue her, or no: goe; say the woman told

me so.

*Simp*. May I be bold to say so Sir?

*Fal*. I Sir: like who more bold.

*Simp*. I thanke your worship: I shall make my Master

glad with these tydings.

*Hof*. Thou art clearkly: thou art clearkly (Sir *Iohn*)

was there a wife woman with thee?

*Fal*. I that there was (mine Hof) one that hath taught

me more wit, then euer I learn'd before in my life: and

I paid nothing for it neither, but was paid for my learn-

ing.

*Bar*. Out alas (Sir) cozonage: meere cozonage.

*Hof*. Where be my horses? speake well of them var-

letto.

*Bar*. Run away with the cozoners: for so soone as

I came beyond *Eaton*, they threw me off, from behinde

one of them, in a slough of myre; and set spurres, and

away; like three *Germane*-diuels; three *Doctor Fan-*

*staffe*.

*Hof*. They are gone but to meete the Duke (villaine)

doe not say they be fled: *Germanes* are honest men.

*Ena*. Where is mine Hof?

*Hof*. What is the matter Sir?

*Ena*. Haue a care of your entertainments: there is a

friend of mine come to Towne, tels mee there is three

Cozen-Iermans, that has cozend all the Hof of *Readins*,

of *Maidenhead*; of *Cole-brooke*, of horses and money: I

tell you for good will (looke you) you are wise, and full

of gibes, and vlouting-stocks: and 'tis not conuenient

you should be cozoned. Fare you well.

*Cai*. Ver's mine Hof de *Tartere*?

*Hof*. Here (Master *Doctor*) in perplexitie, and doubt-

full dilemma.

*Cai*. I cannot tell vat is dat: but it is tell-a-me, dat

you make grand preparation for a Duke de *Lamanie*: by

my trot: der is no Duke that the Courtis know, so

come: I tell you for good will: adieu.

*Hof*. Huy and cry, (villaine) goe: affist me Knight, I

am vadone: fly, run: huy, and cry (villaine) I am vn-

done.

*Fal*. I would all the world might be cozon'd, for I

haue beene cozon'd and beaten too: if it should come

to the eare of the Court, how I haue beene transformed;

and how my transformation hath beene washt, and

cudgeld, they would melt mee out of my fat drop by

drop, and liquor Fishermens-boots with me: I warrant

they would whip me with their fine wits, till I were as

crest-falne as a dride-peare: I neuer prosper'd, since I

forsooke my selfe at *Primero*: well, if my winde were

but long enough; I would repent: Now? Whence come

you?

*Qui*. From the two parties forfooth.

*Fal*. The Diuell take one partie, and his Dam the

other: and so they shall be both bestow'd; Thau'e suf-

fer'd more for their fake

constancy of mans dispo-

*Qui*. And haue not ch-

ciously one of them; Mi-

blacke and blew, that yo-

her.

*Fal*. What tell'st thou

was beaten my selfe into

bow: and I was like to b-

of *Brainford*, but that m-

my counterfeiting the ad-

me, the knaue Constable h-

mon Stocks, for a Witch.

*Qui*. Sir: let me speak

you shall heare how thing

content: here is a Letter

(hearts) what a-doe here is

one of you do's not serue

cross'd.

*Fal*. Come vp into my

### Scena

Enter *Fal*

*Hof*. Master *Fenton*, ta-

heavy: I will giue ouer al-

*Fen*. Yet heare me spea-

And (as I am a gentleman)

A hundred pound in gold.

*Hof*. I will heare you

(the least) keepe your coun-

*Fen*. From time to time

With the deare lone I bear

Who, mutually, hath answ-

(So farre forth, as her selfe

Euen to my wish; I haue a

Of such contents, as you v-

The mirth whereof, so late

That neither (lingly) can I

Without the shew of both

Hath a great Scene: the in-

Ile show you here at large

To night at *Hernes-Oke*, I

Must my sweet *Nan* prefer

The purpose why, is here:

VVhile other Iests are com-

Her father hath commande-

Away with *Slender*, and wi-

Immediately to Marry: Sh-

Her Mother, (euen strong a-

And firme for Doctor *Cain*

That he shall likewise shuf-

While other sports are ras-

And at the *Deary*, where a

Strait marry her: to this h-

She seemingly obedient li-

Made promise to the *Docto*

Her Father meanes she sha-

And in that habit, when *Sl*

To take her by the hand, a-

She shall goe with him: he

(The better to deuote her